

REMARKS

The following is responsive to the Office Action mailed August 26, 2004, in connection with the above-identified application, requiring an election of one of the following groups of claims:

Group I, claim 1, drawn to the computer system;

Group II, claims 2-8, drawn to the account balancing method;

Group III, claims 9-12, drawn to a method of allocating functionality;

Group IV, claims 13, 14, and 17, drawn to the plurality of computer entities configured into a group for distribution of configuration settings;

Group V, claims 15 and 16, drawn to configuring application programs;

Group VI, claims 18-21, drawn to the computer device utilizing a data storage device for storing applications programs;

Group VII, claim 22, drawn to aggregating a plurality of computer entities; or

Group VIII, claims 23-27, drawn to transferring user accounts between a plurality of computer entities.

Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, the invention of Group II, claims 2-8, drawn to the account balancing method, and reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the subject matter of the non-elected claims.

Applicants do not agree that the inventions of Group IV, claims 13, 14, and 17, and Group V, claims 15 and 16, are separate and distinct. However, claim 13, upon which claim 14 depends, and claim 17 recite plural computer entities and systems, wherein a master computer controls the configurations of computers in a group. Claim 15, upon which claim 16 depends, is also directed to a master applying configuration settings.

Claims 2, 8, and 14 are amended to address matters of form.

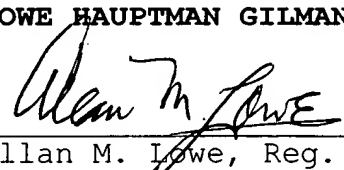
A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in accordance with the facsimile from the Examiner dated August 8, 2004, indicating that an election was needed to place the application in condition for allowance.

To the extent necessary during prosecution of the present application, Applicants hereby request any required extension of time not otherwise requested and hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge any required fees not otherwise provided for to Deposit Account 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN GILMAN & BERNER, LLP

By:


Allan M. Lowe, Reg. No. 19,641

Customer No. 22429

1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 300
Alexandria, VA 22314
703-684-1111 telephone
703-518-5499 telecopier
AML:rk